REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed March 22, 2007, the Examiner finally rejects claims 19 through 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,6,06,748 to Tomioka ("Tomioka"). For the reasons set forth herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the remarks presented herewith.

Claims 19 through 27 are currently pending in the present application, with claims 19, 23 and 27 being independent claims. By way of the present Response, Applicants hereby amend independent claims 19, 23 and 27. No new matter has been added and the amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19 through 27.

Independent claim 19 is directed towards a method for synchronizing and propagating changes to an event. The method comprises assigning an event an event identifier and registering said event in a first table wherein said first table stores the event identifier and an event trigger. The interests of at least one other event are registered in a second table, wherein the at least one other event is a subsidiary event that provides the viewer with additional multimedia data that enhances the event, and the second table stores a procedure to execute for the event trigger. A change to the event generates an event trigger and the first table is inspected to identify said event trigger for the generated event trigger and the second table is inspected for the procedure to execute upon identifying the event trigger for the event identifier. The procedure is executed to change

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at least one of said at least one other event in response to identifying said procedure upon inspecting the second table. Independent claims 23 and 27 are substantially similar to independent claim 19, but cast as a system and computer program embodied on a computer readable medium, respectively.

By contrast, Tomioka discusses systems and methods for providing information whereby original data is separated into first data, also referred to as "framework data," which are substantially fixed and undergo relatively small amount of variation when changes occur due to updating. Col. 2, lines 24-34; Col. 13, lines 43-53. The original information is further separated into second data, also referred to as "variation data," which undergo relatively large amounts of variation when changes occur due to updating the original information of the most recently acquired current program data. Col. 2, lines 24-34; Col. 13, lines 54-62.

Tomioka further discusses a management data storage section that resides on an information receiving apparatus. Col. 11, lines 1-15. The management data storage section stores management data for managing the framework data holding section and the variation data holding section. Col. 11, lines 1-15. The management data of Tomioka is used in conjunction with a management data conversion section for altering the management data that manages the framework data and variation data received from an information providing apparatus. Col. 11, lines 9-15. The management data is used for linking the variation data and framework data to reconstitute program data by selecting parts of the framework data and variation data. Col. 18, lines 47-56.

Applicants respectfully submit that Tomioka fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the independent claims as amended. Specifically, Tomioka does

not teach or suggest the claimed element of "registering interests of at least one other event in a second table wherein said at least one other event is a subsidiary event that provides the viewer with additional multimedia data that enhances said event, and said second table stores a procedure to execute for said event trigger." The Examiner has relied upon Tomioka's discussion regarding the management data storage section as anticipating registering interests of at least one other event in a second table. The management data storage section discussed in Tomioka solely discusses a management data storage section which is used for updating and linking variation data and framework data received from an information providing apparatus. Col. 18, lines 47-67. Furthermore, the management data storage section only stores management data for linking framework data and variation data used in conjunction with a data reconstitution section to reconstitute desired parts of the current program data for display to a user. Col. 10, lines 46-58. The reconstituted framework data and variation data, however, are a reconstruction of the updated original information and do not include a subsidiary event that provides the viewer with additional multimedia that enhances the event as claimed. Thus, the asserted prior art fails to teach or suggest "registering interests of at least one other event in a second table wherein said at least one other event is a subsidiary event that provides the viewer with additional multimedia data that enhances the event."

As such, Applicants submit that independent claims 19, 23 and 27 are allowable and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19, 23 and 27. Furthermore, claims 20 through 22 and 24 through 26 depend from independent claims 19 and 23, respectively and contain additional features that further substantially distinguish the invention of the present application over the prior art of record. Given the
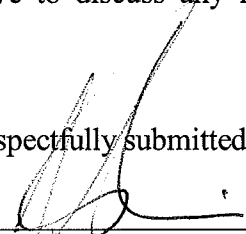
Attorney Docket No. 600253.031

Applicants' position on the patentability of the independent claims 19 and 23, Applicants

submit that dependent claims 20 through 22 and 24 through 26 of the present application

are allowable for at least the same reasons as stated above.

For at least all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the

Examiner withdraw all rejections, and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully

solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited

to call the Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this

application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: <u>September 24, 2007</u>

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